

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20 HEW-08 SS-15 AID-20 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7915

S E C R E T MEXICO 6818

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR/MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA

REF: MEXICO 6791

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AND DCM MET WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA 11 A.M. SEPTEMBER 11. IN HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION, PRESIDENT SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN AND RECEPTIVE TO AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA REFERRED SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSALS TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR FURTHER STUDY, HE PERSONALLY READ CAREFULLY EACH MEMORANDUM PRESENTED TO HIM. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT FURTHER TALKS WOULD BE HELD ON THESE SUBJECTS AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO BILATERAL DISCUSSION ON PROBLEMS HE WOULD HAVE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARDSON AND OTHERS IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 29 AND 30. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE OPENED CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WITH EXPRESSION OF REGRETS OVER RECENT FLOODS AND EARTHQUAKE DISASTER AND REITERATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. FOLLOWING

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EXCHANGE OF COURTESIES, AND UPON IT BECOMING APPARENT

THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSION MERITED THE PRESENCE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA CALLED IN LIC. OJEDA PAULLADA WHO REMAINED DURING THE REST OF THE CONVERSATION.

3. IN HIS PRESENTATION THE AMBASSADOR:

A) EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT GOM COOPERATION IN THE RECENT DEPORTATION OF GIUSEPPE CATANIA. THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT ENTIRELY AWARE OF THE IMPLICATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE CATANIA CASE AND WAS GIVEN A FULL BRIEFING BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

B) PRESENTED THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA FROM PRESIDENT NIXON DEALING WITH THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. ECHEVERRIA RECEIVED THE LETTER WITH APPRECIATION AND DEMONSTRATED KEEN INTEREST IN ITS CONTENT.

C) DESCRIBED USG APPRECIATION OF GOM COOPERATION, NOTING RECENT INCREASES IN ACTIVITY IN CERTAIN FJP JURISDICTIONS.

D) PRESENTED EXPOSITION OF GROWING PROBLEM OF BROWN HEROIN IN THE UNITED STATES, DRAWING ON MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY WASHINGTON.

E) NOTING THAT PROBLEM OF BROWN HEROIN MUST BE ATTACKED BY BOTH INTERDICTION OF THE TRAFFIC AND DESTRUCTION OF PRODUCING FIELDS, HE SAID THAT USG BELIEVES THE LATTER IS KEY ELEMENT IN AFFECTING DECREASE IN THE PROBLEM. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR PRESENTED PROPOSALS:

(1) HE DESCRIBED "COMPASS TRIP" IN SOME DETAIL AND ELICITED A PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE REACTION FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO SEEMED TAKEN WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF PROGRAM.

(2) HE GAVE THE PRESIDENT THE USG PROPOSAL FOR THE EXPANSION OF "PLAN CANADOR," BOTH AS A PILOT
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PROJECT AND AS A POSSIBLY FURTHER EXPANDED EFFORT.

F) NOTED THAT IN THE INTERDICTION OF TRAFFIC THE OBTAINING AND EXPLOITING OF BASIC INTELLIGENCE IS ESSENTIAL. HE SAID THAT USG NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES HAVE URGENT NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE GENERATED FROM FJP INTERROGATIONS OF TRAFFICKERS, AND THAT ON THE OTHER SIDE, USG WOULD WELCOME A NUMBER OF FJP AGENTS STATIONED IN

THE UNITED STATES TO WORK WITH US AUTHORITIES THERE.

G) CITED THE MEXICAN MILITARY AS ANOTHER POSSIBLE SOURCE OF EXPLOITABLE INTELLIGENCE, PARTICULARLY RELATING TO INFORMATION ON LOCAL BUYERS AND FINANCIERS OF ILLICIT CROPS AS WELL AS ON LOCATION OF POPPY FIELDS AND TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.

H) REMARKED ON USG GRATIFICATION THAT GOM NOW APPARENTLY HAS INSTITUTED SAME SERIES OF PRIORITIES AS USG, I.E., HEROIN AND COCAINE IN FIRST PLACE FOLLOWED BY DANGEROUS DRUGS AND MARIJUANA IN THAT ORDER.

I) EXPRESSED GREAT ADMIRATION FOR FINE WORK CARRIED OUT BY FJP AND MEXICAN CUSTOMS AGENTS, BUT NOTING THAT NARCOTICS EFFORTS (OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS) COULD PROFIT BY MORE AND BETTER TRAINED AGENTS, AMBASSADOR OFFERED ADDITIONAL USG ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING FJP AND MEXICAN CUSTOMS.

J) FINALLY, SOUGHT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ASSISTANCE IN UNSTICKING HERBICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT WHICH HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE WITH MEXICAN GOVERNMENT FOR OVER ONE YEAR.

4. MEMORANDA WERE LEFT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON THE SPREAD OF BROWN HEROIN, "COMPASS TRIP," THE EXPANSION OF "PLAN CANADOR" AND THE HERBICIDE RESEARCH PROJECT. IN ADDITION THE PRESIDENT WAS SHOWN THE MAP DEPICTING RECENT SPREAD OF BROWN HEROIN IN U.S. AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA WAS PRESENTED WITH A MEMORANDUM SUMMARIZING POINTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR. ATTORNEY GENERAL USED THIS OPPORTUNITY FULLY TO BRIEF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NARCOTICS CAMPAIGNS AND PRESIDENT

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ECHEVERRIA READ EACH MEMORANDUM WHILE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS SPEAKING.

5. EMBASSY POUCHING TO DEPARTMENT COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS LEFT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA.

6. ALTHOUGH NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DEMONSTRATED GREAT INTEREST IN PROPOSALS AND REFERRED THEM TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR FURTHER STUDY. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT ADDITIONAL TALKS WOULD BE HELD ON THESE SUBJECTS AND PLANS FOR THE WASHINGTON MEETING BETWEEN ATTORNEYS GENERAL RICHARDSON AND OJEDA PAULLADA AT THE END OF OCTOBER WERE DISCUSSED.
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